

SN. 10/676,805

ATTORNEY DOCKET No. OKAB:002

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) [[The]] A toner kit according to claim 1, comprising a non-magnetic black toner having at least carbon black, and at least three color toners,

wherein said black toner has a weight-average particle diameter represented by D4b and a one-point method BET specific surface area represented by Sb, and the color toners, other than the black toner, each having a weight-average particle diameter represented by D4c and a one-point method BET specific surface area represented by Sc,

wherein said black toner and color toners satisfy the following relations (1) and (2):

Relation (1): $0.60 \leq D4c/D4b \leq 0.96$,

Relation (2): $0.750 \leq Sc/Sb \leq 1.000$,

and each have an average circularity of from 0.950 to 1.000 and a circularity standard deviation of less than 0.040 as measured with a flow type particle image analyzer, and

wherein, where the proportion of 5.04 µm or smaller particles that is calculated from number-based particle size distribution of said black toner is represented by Ub_{5.04} (% by number), the proportion of 5.04 µm or smaller particles that is calculated from number-based particle size distribution of each of said color toners is represented by Uc_{5.04} (% by number), the proportion of 12.7 µm or larger particles that is calculated from weight-based particle size distribution of said black toner is represented by Ub_{12.7} (% by weight), and the proportion of 12.7 µm or larger particles that is calculated from weight-based particle size distribution of each of said color toners is represented by Uc_{12.7} (% by weight), the toners satisfy the following relations (3), (4) and (5):

Relation (3): $1.2 \leq Uc_{5.04}/Ub_{5.04} \leq 6.0$,

Relation (4): $Ub_{12.7} \leq 2.0$,

Relation (5): $Uc_{12.7} \leq 1.0$.

3-10. (Cancelled)

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11. (Currently Amended) [[The]] A color image-forming method according to claim 10, comprising:

a charging step of electrostatically charging an electrostatic-latent-image-bearing member for holding thereon an electrostatic latent image;

an electrostatic latent image formation step of forming the electrostatic latent image on the electrostatic-latent-image-bearing member thus charged;

a developing step of developing the electrostatic latent image by the use of a toner a developing means has, to form a toner image;

a transfer step of transferring the toner image held on the electrostatic-latent-image-bearing member, to a transfer material via, or not via, an intermediate transfer member; and

a fixing step of fixing by a fixing means the toner image held on the transfer material,

wherein i) a non-magnetic black toner has at least carbon black and ii) at least three color toners each are used as the toner,

wherein said black toner has a weight-average particle diameter represented by D4b and a one-point method BET specific surface area represented by Sb, and said color toners, other than the black toner, each having a weight-average particle diameter represented by D4c and a one-point method BET specific surface area represented by Sc,

wherein said black toner and color toners satisfy the following relations (1) and (2):

Relation (1): $0.60 \leq D4c/D4b \leq 0.96$,

Relation (2): $0.750 \leq Sc/Sb \leq 1.000$,

and each have an average circularity of from 0.950 to 1.000 and a circularity standard deviation of less than 0.040 as measured with a flow type particle image analyzer, and

wherein, where the proportion of 5.04 μm or smaller particles that is calculated from number-based particle size distribution of said black toner is represented by $Ub_{5.04}$ (% by number), the proportion of 5.04 μm or smaller particles that is calculated from number-based particle size distribution of each of said color toners is represented by $Uc_{5.04}$ (% by number), the proportion of 12.7 μm or larger particles that is calculated from weight-based particle size distribution of said black toner is represented by $Ub_{12.7}$ (% by weight), and the proportion of 12.7 μm or larger particles that is calculated from weight-based particle size distribution of each of said color toners is represented by $Uc_{12.7}$ (% by weight), the toners satisfy the following relations (3), (4) and (5):

Relation (3): $1.2 \leq Uc_{5.04}/Ub_{5.04} \leq 6.0$,

Relation (4): $Ub_{12.7} \leq 2.0$,

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Relation (5): $Uc_{12.7} \leq 1.0$.

12-22. (*Canceled*)